

IMPORTANT FROM WASHINGTON.

The Outgoing and Incoming Administrations.

Viewing Scenes of the Thirty-Sixth Congress.

The Tariff Bill Signed by the President.

The Reason Why Troops are Concentrated at the Capital.

THE FATE OF THE PEACE PROPOSITIONS.

THE NEW CABINET.

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A Coercive Policy Towards the South Resolved On.

Financial and Military Preparations of the Southern Republic.

VIRGINIA ON THE VERGE OF SECESSION.

List of the Resignations of Army, Navy and Civil Officers.

The Programme for the Inauguration of the President and Vice-President.

A. C. A. C. A. C.

THE OUTGOING ADMINISTRATION.

THE NEW TARIFF BILL A LAW.

The President was in great doubt for some time as to whether he would sign the new tariff bill. He said he had examined some of its more important features, and he regarded it as a very imperfect and loosely drawn bill. He yielded, however, to the persuasion of some of his Pennsylvania friends, and to-day signed it.

THE PEACE MEASURES BEFORE CONGRESS.

As I predicted everything with regard to the peace measures would depend on the action of the Senate on Mr. Bigler's resolution repealing the rule forbidding the reading of any bill or resolution more than once on the same day, so it turned out. The resolution was resisted by the extreme men on both sides. But it prevailed by four majority, and hence the resolution of the House, known as the Corwin resolution, may and probably will be adopted, and even those of Mr. Crittenden or Mr. Bigler can pass finally. But the indications are that nothing will be done except the passing of Corwin's resolution, which is regarded as amounting to nothing.

A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT. THE CONCENTRATION OF TROOPS AT THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

The President sent a message to the House, in compliance with a resolution previously adopted, as to the reasons which induced him to assemble so large a number of troops in Washington. He submitted that the force is not so large as the resolution presupposes, its total amount being six hundred and fifty-three, exclusive of the marines, who are of course at the Navy Yard, as their appropriate station. These troops were ordered here to act as a posse comitatus, in strict accordance to the civil authority, for the purpose of preserving peace and order in Washington, should this become necessary, before or at the period of the inauguration of the President or of the inauguration of the Vice-President. What was the duty of the President at the time the troops were ordered to the city? Ought he to have waited, before the precautionary measure was adopted, until he could obtain proof that a secret conspiracy existed to seize the capital? In the language of the Select Committee, this was "in a time of high excitement, consequent upon revolutionary events transpiring all around us. The very air was filled with rumors, and individuals were indulging in the most extravagant expression of fears and arrests." Under these circumstances, which the President says he need not detail, as they appear in the testimony of the Select Committee, he was convinced that he ought to act. The safety of the immense amount of public property in this city, and of the archives of the government, in which all the States, and especially the new States, in which the public lands are situated, have a deep interest, required the President to take the precautionary measures of his own self and the security of the inauguration of the President elect were subjects of such vast importance to the whole country that I could not hesitate to adopt precautionary and defensive measures. At the present moment, when all is quiet, it is difficult to realize the state of alarm which prevailed when the troops were first ordered to this city. This alarm instantly subsided after the arrival of the first company, and a feeling of comparative peace and security has since existed both in Washington and throughout the country. Had I refused to adopt this precautionary measure, and evil consequences—many good men at the time apprehended—had followed, I never should have forgiven myself.

THE CONDITION AND PROSPECTS OF THE SOUTHERN REPUBLIC.

Intelligence received to-day from the new government at Montgomery, shows that it is proceeding with great vigor. By the 4th of March it is believed the entire force of thirty thousand volunteers was well drilled and under arms, awaiting orders. Large army provisions supplied of all sorts are being purchased recently in Chicago, St. Louis and Cincinnati, and sent to Mobile and New Orleans for distribution. On the 4th of March the new postal arrangements go into effect. The date for the new stamps has been made, and the old contractors continued in the service of the Confederate States. By Monday next, says a leading citizen of Montgomery, the new government will be independent in all the practical details of administration, and prepared to meet good their separate nationality against all comers. The present tariff is designed to be merely provisional and temporary. So soon as practicable a new system will be adopted.

THE POSITION OF VIRGINIA.

The intelligence from Virginia is rather discouraging for the friends of the Union. It is positively asserted that if Congress adjourns without passing some sort of adjustment Virginia will join her sister States in the Southern confederacy in less than thirty days. This is a serious statement from the subalterns in that State. GEN. TWIGGS DISMISSED FROM THE ARMY.

THE CASE OF CAPTAIN POPE.

In justice to the President and Secretary of War, it is proper to state that the conduct of Captain Pope was a manifest violation of the fifth article of war, and it was a matter of course to order a Court Martial to investigate the charge. In answer to the imputation that this was a fling at the President elect, it is proper to state further that neither the President nor Secretary of War, at the time the Court Martial was ordered, had any knowledge that he was with the President elect on his way to Washington.

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS.

The President has signed the Army Appropriation bill, and a number of private bills. The Civil and Diplomatic bill is not signed.

THE HOUSE TOOK A RECESS FROM THIS EVENING TO TEN O'CLOCK A. M. ON MONDAY.

THE OFFICERS OF THE ARMY AND NAVY, IN SEPARATE BODIES, WAITED ON THE PRESIDENT AND THE RESPECTIVE SECRETARIES OF THEIR BRANCHES OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE, AND FORMALLY TOOK THEIR LEAVE OF THEM. BRIEF SPEECHES WERE MADE, AND MUTUAL REGRETS EXPRESSED.

RESIGNATIONS OF THE ARMY.

Forty-three army officers have resigned since the passage of the South Carolina ordinance of secession, several of them without reference to that subject.

THE RATE OF POSTAGE TO AND FROM THE PACIFIC.

The recently passed Post Route bill contains a section requiring ten cents prepaid letter postage to and from the Pacific coast, without regard to distance. All drop letters are heretofore to be prepaid with postage stamps.

THE CASE OF COMMODORE ARMSTRONG.

The court of inquiry in the case of Commodore Armstrong has resulted in ordering a Court Martial, which will assemble in this city on the 12th of March, and be composed of such distinguished navy officers as Commodore Stewart, Shubrick, Stringham, Nicholson, Jarvis, Gregory, Paulding, Merwin, Reed, &c. The Judge Advocate is Allen B. Magruder.

BUSINESS AT THE WAR DEPARTMENT.

More than double the amount of business has been transacted in the War Department this season than during a similar period for eight years past.

POLICE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE INAUGURATION.

Captain Dunnington, of the Capitol police, is very busy making a selection of proper persons to act as specials on the day of the inauguration. A numerous force will be detailed for the purpose.

AWARDING OF THE CIVIL SERVICE.

Regular and extra trains still pour in curious and expectant thousands from all parts of the North and Northwest. The arrivals from the South are comparatively few. Brown's, the Southern headquarters, is the only leading train not yet obliged to refuse guests. There are at least twenty Northerners to every Southerner here. Over a thousand Illinoisians are in town. The Springfield friends of the President elect are on hand in full force. Special trains are run in every direction. It is a motley crowd, and remarkable for one thing—its intense ignorance of the prevailing troubles of the country. Some of the fresh arrivals, seeking after responsible positions under Mr. Lincoln, still consider secession a joke and a humbug.

IMPORTANT PROCEEDINGS IN CONGRESS.

THIRTY-SIXTH CONGRESS. SECOND SESSION.

SENATE.

The Senate met at the usual hour. A large crowd was observable in the galleries.

Mr. FRANKLIN, (rep. of N. Y.), reported from the Committee of Conference on the Indian Appropriation bill.

The report was agreed to.

Mr. KING, (rep. of N. Y.), presented a large number of petitions, mostly against compromise.

Messrs. SUMNER, WILKINSON and CAMERON presented petitions of a similar character.

A communication from the President was received, transmitting papers in relation to the extradition case of the negro Anderson, which was ordered to be printed.

Reports from the Committee on Printing were adopted.

The report in favor of printing Mr. Simpson's survey of the wagon road was laid over.

A number of private bills were passed.

Mr. SUMNER, (rep. of Mass.), made a motion to correct the journal, where it said—The resolutions from the House were read a first and second time by unanimous consent. He contended that the resolutions were read a second time he himself objected and agreed to.

Mr. DOUGLASS, (rep. of Ill.), claimed that the amendments were read twice.

Mr. FORT, (rep. of Vt.), presented the credentials of Jacob Collier, re-elected as Senator from Vermont.

The journals of the Senate were read a second time—yeas, 39; nays, 5.

THE PROPOSITION OF THE PEACE CONVENTION.

The special order being the Peace Convention proposition it was taken up.

Mr. LAKE, (rep. of Oregon), resumed his remarks, speaking against the proposition, and defended himself against the personal attacks of Mr. Johnson.

He referred to the withdrawal of several of the States, and declared that Virginia would also go if the States which had seceded from the Union were not restored.

He also argued at some length in favor of the right of secession.

Mr. FRANKLIN, (rep. of Md.), made a report from the Committee on the Civil bill, and the report was agreed to.

Mr. LAKE continued, commenting severely on that portion of the report which related to the difficulties of the country.

He was in favor of a peaceable settlement. He declared that the States which had seceded from the Union were not to be restored.

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THE CHAIR ORDERED THE SERGEANT-AT-ARMS TO ARREST ANY ONE CAUSING A DISTURBANCE.

Mr. HAYES, (rep. of Md.), asked that the doors be locked.

After a little time all galleries were cleared, the doors locked, and the Senate proceeded in their business.

Mr. CRITTENDEN, (rep. of Ky.), moved that the Senate adjourn to-morrow to meet to-morrow, even though it was Sunday, circumstances rendered it necessary.

Mr. DOUGLASS, (rep. of Ill.), suggested that they might adjourn to seven o'clock Sunday evening.

Mr. RICE, (rep. of Minn.), said, in relation to the disturbance, he hoped the Senate would do something to prevent such crowds in the galleries.

Mr. RICE would be happy to move that for the residue of the session the galleries should be locked. He thought the disturbance to-day was the greatest since the opening of the Senate, and that it was like a market house mob.

Mr. POLK, (rep. of Mo.), spoke against meeting on Sunday. He said he would not come here, and hoped they would not sit all day long in the Senate and then adjourn.

Mr. WILSON, (rep. of Mass.), was also in favor of resuming his duties to-morrow morning, but not to make an order to meet on Sunday, unless it was necessary.

THE ARMY BILL.

Mr. FENNELL, (rep. of N. H.), made a report from the Committee of Conference on the Army bill.

The report was agreed to, and so the bill passed.

THE INDIAN BILL.

Mr. FORT, (rep. of Vt.), reported from the Committee of Conference on the Indian bill.

The report was agreed to, and so the bill passed.

THE PATENT BILL.

Mr. DOUGLASS reported from the Committee of Conference on the Patent bill.

The report was agreed to, and so the bill passed.

THE ADJOURNMENT.

The question was then taken on Mr. Crittenden's motion, that when the Senate adjourn to-morrow to meet at half past two o'clock on Sunday, the doors be locked, and the galleries be cleared.

Several objections were made against it.

Mr. CRITTENDEN said the real question was, Senators did not wish to take the trouble to go to the Senate, and wished to put it off on the plan that they could not read a second time and passed the same day.

Mr. RICE, (rep. of Minn.), said he thought it was better to keep the Sabbath holy.

Mr. CRITTENDEN said he would keep the Sabbath holy, but he would not keep the Sabbath holy by locking the doors and clearing the galleries.

The motion was disagreed to by yeas 17; nays 21.

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they had a government, even to the Danamians. He pointed out the fact that the South would eventually triumph in the South, and overthrew the very men who now held against Union. The South will gain no benefit from secession; it will only bring a Canada to their own borders, a degraded civil war, but secession was still worse. He was willing to yield anything to true Union men, but nothing to traitors.

Mr. CRITTENDEN replied. He said it was strange that men who were so ready to yield anything to true Union men, but nothing to traitors.

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